

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10 /076 W

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R 301653Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2943

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: MRPP DETENTION CONTINUE

REF: LISBON 3001

SUMMARY: INTERROGATIONS OF ACTIVISTS OF REORGANIZING MOVEMENT OF PROLETARIAT PARTY (MRPP) ARE CONTINUING. MINOR INCIDENTS CONTINUE BETWEEN MRPP MILITANTS AND RIVAL LEFTISTS. ACTION AGAINST MRPP SEEMS DESIGNED AS GENERAL OBJECT LESSON. END SUMMARY.

1. CURRENT SITUATION: INTERROGATIONS OF THE 300 - 400 CAUGHT IN MAY 28 ROUNDUP OF MRPP ACTIVISTS ARE CONTINUING. INDIVIDUALS PICKED UP IN LISBON HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO CAXIAS PRISON FOR PROCESSING. ONCE IDENTIFICATIONS ARE MADE AND RECORDS CHECKED TO ENSURE THEY ARE NOT WANTED FOR CRIMES, PERSONS ARE BEING RELEASED. PROCESS HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO STANDSTILL, HOWEVER, BY REFUSAL OF MOST TO PROVIDE IDENTITIES.

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2. SEVERAL HUNDRED MRPP MILITANTS AND SYMPATHIZERS GATHERED OUTSIDE CAXIAS MAY 29 TO DEMAND RELEASE OF THOSE INSIDE. NUMEROUS INCIDENTS REPORTED EVENING MAY 29 AT MRPP OFFICES AS FEW REMAINING MRPP MILITANTS SOUGHT TO DEFEND PREMISES FROM LEFTIST RIVALS. COPCON INTERVENTION WAS NECESSARY IN SEVERAL INSTANCES TO PREVENT BLOODSHED.

3. ASIDE FROM AN ASSORTMENT OF BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, OFFICE MACHINES AND BATTERED OFFICE FURNITURE, THE SWEEP HAS PRODUCED LITTLE. NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS, ACCORDING TO PRESS, INCLUDE A RIFLE WITH TELESCOPIC SIGHT, A MACHINE PISTON, AND A FEW HANDGUNS. IN ADDITION TO MRPP OFFICES, SWEEP BY COPCON FORCES ALSO INCLUDED LISBON OFFICE OF THE PORTUGAL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION.

4. MRPP BACKGROUND: MRPP WAS FOUNDED IN SEPTEMBER 1970 AS PROTEST AGAINST COMMUNIST PARTY "REVISIONISM." IT IS ANTI-SOVIET, ANTI-AMERICAN, AND -- MOST IMPORTANT -- ANTI-AFM. MAOIST, STUDENT-BASED, AND VIOLENCE PRONE. IT HELD ITS FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MAY 3 - 6, 1974 IN LISBON. LEGALIZED IN FEB 1975, IT PRESENTED CANDIDATES IN 16 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS; REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SUSPENDED PARTY FROM ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION ON MARCH 18.

5. COMMENT: THE PARTY OWES CURRENT MISFORTUNE TO A VARIETY OF FACTORS. ITS OWN EXCESSES, PARTICULARLY IN RECENT WEEKS, HAVE STRAINED THE GENEROUS LIMITS SET FOR LEFT BY AFM. ITS PERSISTENT ATTACKS ON AFM HAVE MORE RECENTLY BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY "POPULAR ACTION" EFFORT WITH ELEMENTS OF MILITARY, E.G. RAL-1 AFFAIR. MRPP HAS ALSO HAD TO DEFEND AGAINST STEADY IDEOLOGICAL ATTACKS BY COMMUNISTS. THE MANNER IN WHICH THOSE DETAINED ARE BEING PROCESSED SUGGESTS THAT ACTION WAS DESIGNED NOT TO DESTROY PARTY OR DRIVE IT UNDERGROUND, BUT RATHER TO IDENTIFY ITS MILITANTS AND DEMONSTRATE THAT AFM HAS WILL AND CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH OPPOSITIONISTS OF WHATEVER STRIPE.
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